

Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team --- DRAFT Charter

BACKGROUND: The management of Biscayne Bay involves a large number of local, state, and federal agencies as well as nongovernmental organizations and individuals. In 1999, the Florida Legislature created the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative (BBPI). Its mission was the development of an open and inclusive, community-based forum to survey public and private sector activities and programs affecting Biscayne Bay, and to provide recommendations for actions to protect, improve, and enhance the bay's resources, its social, economic, and natural values, with its ecological health as a priority. In January 2001, the BBPI issued a final report that recommended the establishment of a Biscayne Bay team as part of the Working Group of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

The report described the goal for the team as follows: To preserve, protect, and enhance Biscayne Bay and its connected waters so that the ecological and aesthetic values of Biscayne Bay may endure for the enjoyment of future generations. In addition, the report suggested that the team recognize the importance of watershed management for the protection of Biscayne Bay and outlined functions for the team as identified in the Purpose that follows.

PURPOSE: Using the final report of the BBPI as a guide, the team will integrate and coordinate restoration, enhancement, and preservation projects, plans, and activities, and will work toward maintaining a functioning ecosystem while promoting a sustainable region. Specifically, the purpose of the team is to provide a forum for public involvement, outreach and interagency coordination and communication; to identify priority issues for action and to create teams to address those issues as needed; to make recommendations on key issues to the Working Group; to identify goals and performance measures related to key issues and to assess the achievement of goals; to identify funding requirements; and to review elements of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that affect Biscayne Bay.

MEMBERS:

Rhonda Haag - South Florida Water Management District

Melissa Meeker - Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Rick Clark (alt. Sarah Belmund) - Biscayne National Park

Brad Brown – NOAA/NMFS

Lt. David Score - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Upper Keys)

Carlos Espinosa (alt. Susan Markly) - Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources
Management

Lee Rawlinson - Miami-Dade Department of Planning and Zoning

Isabel Cosio Carballo – South Florida Regional Planning Council

Don Pybas – Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension

Member of the Florida State Legislature from Miami-Dade County

Miami-Dade County Commissioner selected by the Commission

Municipal representatives selected by the Executive Director of the Dade League of Cities

Dick Frost – Tropical Audubon

Keith Revel – Florida International University

Irene Murray – Pleasure Boating

Fran Bohnsack – Miami River Commission

Enid Pickney – Dade Heritage Trust

Lloyd Miller – Isaac Walton League

Phil Everingham – Miami Marine Council

Arsenio Milian – Citizens for a Better South Florida

Allyn Childress - OED

Rafaela Monchek - OED

GUIDANCE:

Specific Guidance:

1. The initial objective of the team is to develop a Biscayne Bay Action Plan that will guide efforts and prioritize activities to balance appropriate economic use with improved public access, increased habitat restoration, and environmental protection. The team shall also submit an annual progress report to the Working Group beginning December 2001.
2. As part of the planning process for the Biscayne Bay Action Plan, the team should identify issues that may impede the restoration effort and cannot be resolved within the team. These issues, as well as issues identified during implementation, should be presented to the Working Group for assistance. The presentation of these issues will normally be included in one of the Working Group's regularly scheduled meetings.
3. The team should schedule its first meeting within 30 days and develop a meeting schedule as needed. Following the initial team meeting, the team leadership should coordinate with the Working Group chair or the OED to arrange a briefing at an appropriate Working Group meeting.
4. The team should focus on the region as defined by the watershed boundaries of Biscayne Bay, stretching from Dumfoundling Bay south to US-1. This boundary corresponds with the Surface Water Improvement Boundary (SWIM) for Biscayne Bay.

General Guidance:

5. The team will not supplant agency authority or have any regulatory authority.
6. The work of the team will be consistent with the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Act.
7. The team will serve in an advisory role and will not serve as a direct granting agency.

8. The team will coordinate with entities involved in coordinating scientific/research efforts, including that of the Biscayne Bay science group, the Florida Bay Program Management Committee (PMC), and the Science Coordination Team (SCT).

DELIVERABLES :

The team shall produce the following interim and final deliverables for review and approval of the Working Group:

1. Annual Progress Report (beginning December 2001).
2. A Biscayne Bay Action Plan
3. Issues as necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All team meetings will be open to the public and time will be included in the agenda for public comment. Meetings will be advertised in accordance with the Pilot Public Affairs Procedures developed by the Working Group.
2. The BBPI report anticipates that a full-time coordinator position will be funded and utilized; the coordinator will serve as the Public Affairs representative for the team and will be responsible for providing public notice of meetings, facilitating public comment, and providing a brief meeting summary for each meeting that is suitable for publication on the Task Force Web Site.
3. The OED will provide staff support, as needed, to assist the team and the coordinator.